

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

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R 140530Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8609

INFO USIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 16581

USIA FOR IEA AND IBS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CB

SUBJ: GKR TRANSMITTER FACILITIES

REFS: STATE 269833, CHRISMON FAX 280 TO IBS/ET HERSHBERGER

NOV 27 '74 AND STATE 272034

TRIPP ANALYSIS ACCURATE. LENGTHY CONSULTATIONS WITH HIM BY MISSION PERSONNEL DURING HIS NOVEMBER VISIT. WE ARE CONTINUOUSLY WRESTLING WITH GKR TRANSMITTER PROBLEMS GIVEN ABYSMAL LOCAL MAINTENANCE. USING IN-COUNTRY RESOURCES, WE HOPE TO HAVE KOMPONG SOM BACK ON AIR SHORTLY. BATTAMBANG FUNCTIONING THOUGH MAINTENANCE PROBLEMS THERE ARE ALSO SERIOUS. CONCUR WITH TRIPP OBSERVATIONS ON URGENT NEED FOR SPARE PARTS FOR PHNOM PENH TRANSMITTERS. CORE OF PRESENT PROBLEM IS NOW MONEY. WHO PAYS FOR THE MAINTENANCE AND SPARE PARTS? 'BALLPARK ESTIMATE' IS \$20,000 TO \$25,000 PER ANNUM FOR ALL THREE TRANSMITTER SITES. TO RESOLVE THIS QUESTION SUGGEST DISCUSSIONS AMONG ALL 'INTERESTED PARTIES' IN WASHINGTON ASAP. THE QUESTION OF KEEPING GKR 'ON THE AIR WAVES' IS A HIGH PRIORITY FOR THIS MISSION DURING THE CRITICAL DRY SEASON NOW UPON US. OUR THANKS FOR USEFUL INFO ON VUNC TRANSMITTER IN SEOUL. HAVE QUERIED SEOUL ON SPECIFICATIONS AND DATA OF TRANSMITTER FOR PURPOSE OF DETERMINING COMPATABILITY WITH PHNOM PENH TRANSMITTERS.

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Message Attributes

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